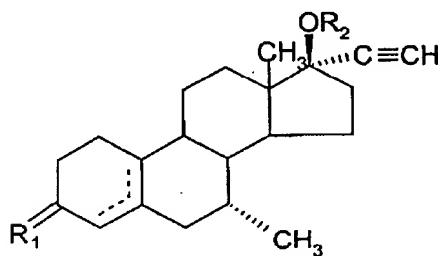


I. Claim Amendments

1. (Previously Amended) A method of inhibiting the atherosclerotic process, comprising administering to a mammal an effective amount of a 7α -methyl- 17α -ethynyl-estrane derivative having the general formula 1



Formula I

wherein

$R_1 = H(OR_3)$ or O;

$R_2 = H$ or $(C_{1-18})\text{Acyl}$;

$R_3 = H$ or $(C_{1-18})\text{Acyl}$;

and the dotted line represents a double bond in the 4, 5- or the 5, 10- position.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein $R_1 = H, OH$ or O.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein $R_2 = H$ and the dotted line represents a double bond in the 5, 10-position.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the a 7 α -methyl-17 α -ethynyl-estrane derivative is 7 α -methyl-17 α -ethynyl-17 β -hydroxy-estra-5(10)-en-3-one.

Claim 5 (Cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer)

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein the mammal is a human.